



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Gateway Team

Fact Sheet

Residential Cleanup near A.M. Jackson Elementary Academy

East St. Louis, IL
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METRO-EAST LEAD COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP



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EPA has removed nearly 2,700 tons of low-level lead-contaminated soil from a residential clean-up site near A.M. Jackson Elementary Academy in East St. Louis.

The site is in a mixed residential and commercial area at the south side of St. Clair Avenue between 16th and 18th Streets. It is bordered by residences on three sides with a daycare center to the west and Interstate 64 to the north. A.M. Jackson Elementary Academy is south of the site.

The contaminated soil was replaced with 2,800 tons of clean backfill, which was graded and seeded. Contaminated soil is being hauled to a landfill permitted to accept low-level lead-contaminated soil. Cleanup-related debris also has been collected and disposed of. EPA has spent almost \$148,000 on clean up of the Western Forge site since November 12, part of a lead cleanup throughout East St. Louis



The Illinois Department of Public Health and EPA documented lead levels in soil above health standards on the former facility and in the surrounding neighborhood.

Removing lead from soil makes everything safer

Health concerns for the area are focused on the potential for exposing young children, pregnant women, and elderly people to elevated levels of lead contamination.



A wary resident watches over clean up in East St. Louis

According to the EPA Region 5 Superfund Environmental Justice Analysis, the residents closest to the site are classified as 100 percent minority compared to the overall state population.

About 64 percent of the families living in this area have an income of less than the established state low-income level. The demographic conditions indicate that this cleanup is an environmental justice priority for the community around the site.

As part of this clean-up activity, the former Western Forge Works was handled by Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, a nonprofit organization which conducted a demonstration project using biosolids to bind leachable lead (lead that could easily move to other places or plants). This process reduces the amount of lead available to be absorbed into living organisms.

The demonstration project was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Metro-East Lead Collaborative Partnership. The low-level lead-contamination found in the surrounding neighborhoods is being addressed by EPA as part of the same effort.